



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

**ROMY M. CACHOLA**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
(808) 547-7007  
(808) 523-4220 (fax)  
e-mail: rcachola@honolulu.gov

RECEIVED  
2007 JUN -7 1 A 9:10  
CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

May 30, 2007

**Memorandum**

TO: Councilmember Barbara Marshall, Chair

FROM: Councilmember Romy M. Cachola *Romy*

SUBJECT: Western Interstate Region Conference, National Association of Counties  
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska  
May 9-11, 2007

I attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstate Region Conference, which was held in Alaska from May 9-11, 2007. The three-day conference focused on public lands and other issues critical to the Western Region of the United States. The conference also provided county officials with the opportunity to hear speakers, discuss legislation, and network with other officials to exchange information on various issues.

**May 9, 2007**

May 9 was the first day of the conference, which included registration of attendees, Board of Directors meetings, steering committee sessions, and NACo Board of Directors events.

**May 10, 2007**

I attended the Opening General Session from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., which began with a welcome address by the Honorable Jim Whitaker, mayor of Fairbanks North Star Borough. The session also included a presentation by Bob Fisher of Employee Relations, Inc. who talked about the subject "*Managing Human Resource Risk*." I found the session to be very informative and worthwhile. The speaker stressed that managers can reduce human resource risk through improved education, training, and physical and mental health maintenance of an organization's most valued assets—its employees.

The next session that I attended was held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. It was entitled "*Green Building Standards and Practices—Examples from Alaska*." The speaker was John Davies, research director from the Cold Climate Housing Research Center. A "green building" is a phrase to describe environmentally-friendly construction. It includes many different aspects from

planting shade trees to saving energy to installing water-efficient plumbing. Mr. Davies and a panel of builders and building scientists presented examples of Alaskan green building standards and practices within a national context. Similarly, Honolulu has joined Alaska and other international, national, and local municipalities in adopting green building standards. In fact, the Honolulu City Council adopted Bill 77 (2005) CD1 which requires all new City facilities greater than 5,000 square feet to meet a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard for environmentally sensitive design beginning in Fiscal Year 2008 and thereafter. Many builders nationwide have embraced similar standards and the embedded principals of community sustainability.

In the afternoon from 2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., I attended another presentation entitled "*The Impacts of Climate Change in Alaska's Northern Communities*." Speakers included Dr. Glenn Patrick Juday, professor of forest ecology at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and Dr. Dan White, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. I learned that the Arctic and sub-Arctic is undergoing a system-wide response to an altered climate. Alaskan towns and villages are being affected by new extreme and seasonal climactic conditions. Permafrost is warming, hydrological processes are changing, and biological and social systems are also evolving. Knowing how terrestrial and oceansystems are responding to these persistent changes is critical to helping people to adapt.

In the evening, I attended a conference-wide event at Pioneer Park, which was a 44-acre historic park located on the Chena River in Fairbanks. I visited Gold Rush Town, a complete town of the stampede era made up of 35 historic cabins and buildings which were donated by pioneers and their descendants from Fairbanks' early days. This included songs, dances, poetry celebrating gold rush lore and early life in Fairbanks.

#### **May 11, 2007**

I attended two sessions on May 11, 2007, the first of which was entitled "*Path to Eden*" which was held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Moderated by Bob Jacobsen, a member of the Hawaii County Council, the forum discussed how land ownership in Montana has changed dramatically over the past 15 years. Expansive ranch lands and majestic mountains were being recognized by outsiders for their aesthetic and recreational values. With this new popularity came new owners who brought new cultures and new lifestyles into Montana. The people of Montana were faced with decisions on how to embrace these differences, while at the same time maintain critical elements that made Montana a special and unique place. Speakers included Harold Blattie, executive director of the Montana Association of Counties; Connie Eissinger, McCone County commissioner; and Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County commissioner. All three speakers discussed how the Rural Landscape Institute, the Montana Association of Counties and many other state organizations reached out to these newcomers through an educational DVD entitled "Path to Eden."

In the afternoon, from 2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., I attended a session entitled "*Preparing Citizens For Pandemic Influenza*." Speakers included Dr. Jay Butler, state epidemiologist from Fairbanks, and Jennifer Yuhas, special assistant to Fairbanks mayor Jim Whitaker. Dr. Butler stressed that while municipalities may share common aspects in preparing for various disaster situations, there may be unique challenges that need special attention. The Fairbanks North Star Borough discovered this while conducting research to develop a response and mitigation plan to

the threat of a pandemic influenza. Because of the Fairbanks' remoteness, planners realized they could expect little to no help from outside resources for an extended period of time.

Later that evening, myself and members of the Hawaii delegation attended a Western Interstate Region Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers.

###

May 8 - 11, 2007

Fairbanks, AK

RC

City and County of Honolulu  
STATEMENT OF COMPLETED TRAVEL

- Statement due within 30 days of completing travel.
- Statement not turned in will result in total cash advance to be included as income on W-2.

I certify that I departed from Honolulu on official business on 5/07/07 at 9:05PM and returned to Honolulu on 5/12/07 at 7:32PM, as authorized (see attached Form M-6-69). The following is an accounting of expenditures and funds advanced to traveler (attach required receipts). Travel destination and purpose:

## (1) PAYMENTS MADE BY TRAVELER FOR ALLOWABLE EXPENSES:

## (a) Lodging, Meals and Tips:

From 5/07/07 to 5/12/07  
5.25 days @ \$ 130 per day = \$ 682.50

The conference, etc., started: Date 5/08/07 Time 8:00AM

The conference, etc., ended: Date 5/11/07 Time 8:00PM

(b) Excess Lodging Costs: 4 days @ \$ 1.40 per day = \$ 5.60

Actual lodging cost per day \$ 86.40

Less lodging allowance per day (85.00)

Excess lodging per day \$ 1.40

## (c) Limousine, Taxi, Bus:

DATE	DESTINATION	AMOUNT
		\$
		\$ -0-

## (d) Other allowable expenses:

DATE	NATURE OF EXPENSE	AMOUNT
<u>4/18/07</u>	<u>Airfare (Hnl-SFO-Hnl)</u>	\$ <u>409.50</u>
	<u>Airfare (SFO-SEA-ANC-FAI)</u>	<u>631.90</u>
		\$ <u>1,041.40</u>

TOTAL ALLOWABLE EXPENSES, (a) + (b) + (c) + (d) . . . . . \$ 1,729.50

(2) CASH ADVANCED TO TRAVELER . . . . . ( 0.00 )

REIMBURSEMENT DUE TRAVELER . . . . . \$ 1,729.50

AMOUNT DUE CITY FROM TRAVELER - if cash advances exceed expenses . . . . . ( \$ )

## SUMMARY OF TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

Total Allowable Expenses (as shown above) . . . . . \$ 1,729.50

Air Transportation Cost (not included above) . . . . . 0.00

Registration Fee, etc. (not included above) . . . . . 420.00

TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURES . . . . . \$ 2,149.50

Prepared by: X

*Romeo Cachola*  
 Signature of Traveler  
 Romeo Cachola

APPROVED:

*C. B. K. Wang*  
 Department Head